

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE CRISIS
USSR/CUBA

Information as of 0600

5 November 1962

Approved for Release
Date 5 FEB 1985

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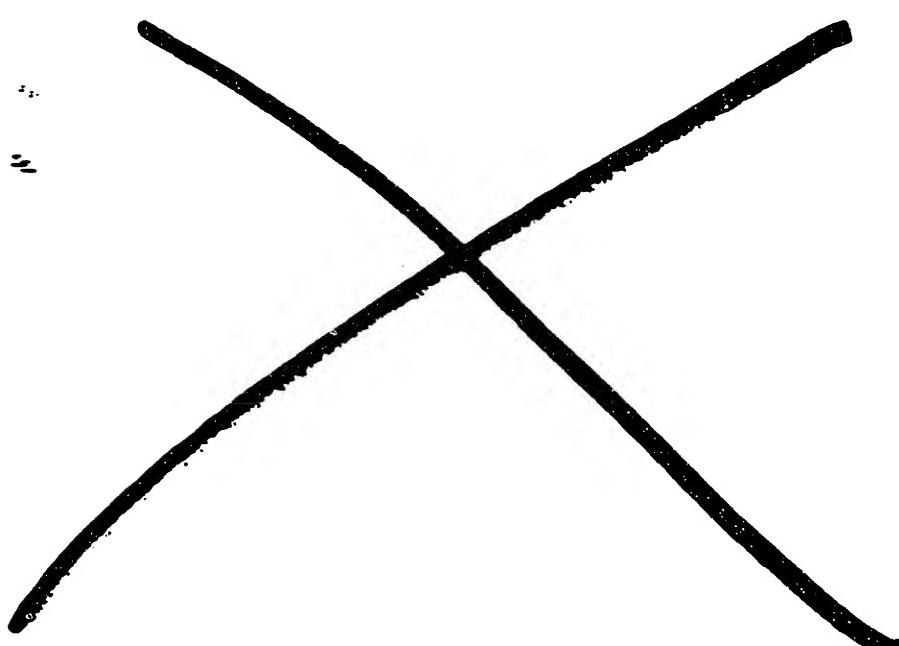
Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov told US negotiator McCloy during the course of a one-hour meeting in New York on 31 October that all anti-aircraft weapons in Cuba, including the SAM sites, were in Cuban hands.

Soviet leaders are showing concern that Castro's attempts to block an agreement could revive the danger of US military action and thwart Soviet efforts to salvage the USSR's position in Cuba. The immediate purpose of Mikoyan's urgent trip to Havana via New York is very probably to exert pressure on Castro so that an early agreement can be concluded. He is also probably under instructions to work out coordinated negotiating tactics with the Cuban government.

In his efforts to batten Castro's cooperation, Mikoyan may make new offers of assistance. Several members of the delegation accompanying Mikoyan are Soviet economic and trade specialists. Khrushchev's 28 October letter made it clear that the USSR will not "absolve ourselves of responsibility for rendering assistance to the Cuban people."

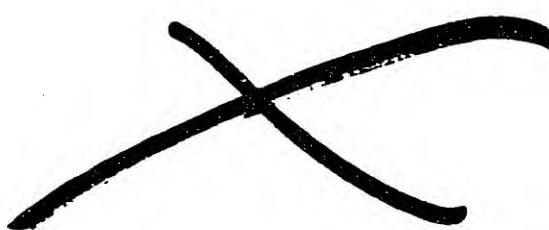
Soviet propaganda supporting Castro's "just demands" stops short of suggesting that the USSR is demanding fulfillment of Castro's proposals, and Mikoyan almost certainly will not endorse Castro's insistence on the return of the Guantanamo naval base and termination of US economic sanctions.

He may, however, agree to support Castro's attempts to obtain US guarantees extending beyond President Kennedy's offer of assurances that the US will not invade Cuba. In an effort to end US support for the activities of Cuban exile groups, the USSR and Cuba may call for reciprocal pledges by the US, Cuba, and the latter's Western Hemisphere neighbors to respect each other's sovereignty and to refrain from interference in each other's internal affairs.



LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENTS

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Briceno is in Washington where he plans to address the OAS on Monday, 5 November, on the Cuban situation and its relation to "Cuban-inspired subversion and sabotage" in Venezuela. He has brought "proof" with him but would like more if the US can supply it.



BLOC-CUBA

The TASS announcement of the 4 November meeting between Mikoyan and Cuban leaders gave no details on the matters discussed or any indication of the duration of Mikoyan's stay in Cuba. This suggests that agreement is yet to be reached on matters of inspection in Cuba and the verification of the removal of Soviet missiles.

Soviet propaganda suggests that the Soviets intend to delay as much as possible on the issue of UN inspection and verification, hoping that the issue will lose its force and immediacy as the missile sites are dismantled and it appears that the missiles are being shipped home.

Radio Moscow continues to make vague references to Soviet support of Castro and Cuba and specifically denies that any rift exists between the USSR and Cuba. Soviet propaganda again seeks to obtain a broader US commitment not to invade Cuba and repeats claims that it is time for the US to fulfill its part of the bargain with the USSR by ending the quarantine and aerial surveillance of Cuba. In discussing the Cuban settlement, Moscow warns that the West's tactics with regard to Cuba will not be applicable to a solution of the Berlin problem.

Communist China continues to give vociferous support to Castro and his five demands. At the same time Peking's criticism of Soviet Cuban policy is becoming sharper; a People's Daily editorial implies that the USSR adopted an "appeasement policy" toward the US. Deriding the "Munich scheme against the Cuban people," People's Daily declares that support of Castro's five demands is "the obligatory, internationalist duty of the people of all socialist countries." Numerous mass rallies in support of Cuba have taken place in China, and Chou en-Lai has publicly reaffirmed Chinese solidarity with Castro and the Cuban people.